

rosy as we had hoped. There is going to be a greater shortfall than we had anticipated and when that happens the problems compound. We're going to have to, some time along the line, make the same tough decisions that previous Legislatures and previous Governors made when it comes to cutting down expenses. It wasn't easy for Governor Thone back during his term of office to put a hiring freeze in place. Wasn't easy for Governor Kerrey, on two occasions, to have special sessions and reduce budgets but it had to be done. I know there are those who say that I'm bringing up white elephants, red herrings, et cetera. The facts are that no tax plan can be fair if it continues to increase the total tax take from the citizens of the State of Nebraska at the rate we have done in the past four or five years. So if you have the votes for 1063, now is the time to put the bill before the body and begin the debate on the bill. I don't think the bill can stand up to serious debate, but let's see it. I will not support it, but I think that if you have the votes, now is the time to do it. Otherwise, a month from now we're still going to be agonizing over this. When there were those who wanted to extend the life of 829 for another six months during the previous session, the arguments against that proposal was that we can take care of the problem the first few days of the session. Obviously, we couldn't take care of the problem and so hundreds and hundreds of farmers...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...are being forced to pay taxes, personal taxes on their farm equipment because they are going out of business. You saw the front page story in the Lincoln paper a few weeks ago where business was going out of business and they were charged \$34,000 on their inventory tax and told to appeal that tax. That's the result of vacillation and procrastination by this Legislature. I think we ought to do what has to be done. If you've got the votes, then go ahead and do it. If you don't have the votes, then we'll talk about something more reasonable. Again, I want to reiterate. In my opinion, 1063 is a step backward and a step back toward a tax which has been proven to be totally unfair, administratively a nightmare and very, very unfair to...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...those who can't pass it on. Thank you again.